

Deepdene School

195 New Church Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 4ED



Inspection date	26 June 2015
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The manager and staff have a good understanding of how to meet the safeguarding and welfare requirements. All staff have regular training in child protection and know exactly what action to take should they have concerns about the welfare of a child.
- The manager and staff meet the learning and development requirements well. Staff plan a variety of activities across all educational programmes and make regular observations of children's progress. This enables them to monitor children's progress and to plan effectively for their next steps in learning.
- Staff promote children's well-being very well. They are attentive to children's needs and offer them a secure key-person relationship. This promotes children's good emotional development.
- The partnership between the school and parents is very strong. Parents enjoy having a daily update on their child's learning and feel that they can approach staff or the manager at any time for further information. Parents provide information about learning at home, which staff use to prompt conversations with children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The different classes within the nursery share themes as a basis for planning activities. These do not consistently take into account children's own interests, which means that children are not always fully engaged in the activities on offer.
- Staff often pre-prepare expressive arts and design activities. This means that younger children are not freely exploring different materials and older children are not involved in the design element of their work.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- improve children's choices by involving them in planning and taking note of their interests
- improve the provision for expressive arts and design by giving younger children more choices in general art activities, and in encouraging older children to create their own designs.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed all age groups of children in the nursery section of the school, indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector examined a range of documentation.
- The inspector and manager carried out a joint observation.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gather their views.

Inspector

Susan McCourt

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Parents and key persons work very effectively together to share information about children's achievements when they start in the school. They update this frequently with regular exchanges of information so parents feel consistently up to date with their child's progress. Staff make regular observations of children's learning in general play, group activities and one-to-one activities. As a result, children make good progress in their learning and are achieving within the expected range of their development. Children enjoy independent play in all age groups. Staff are consistently alongside children, commenting on what they are doing and building their vocabulary. This means that younger children have good opportunities to learn their colours and the names of different toys. Older children enjoy being more descriptive as they describe the sounds made by different musical instruments. All children are confident to express themselves to staff and friends.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Staff provide a wide range of toys and equipment within easy reach of the children so that they can explore and investigate their surroundings. This encourages children to be curious, eager learners, and they are well-motivated as a result. Children behave well and know what is expected of them as staff are clear about taking turns and sharing. Staff also encourage children to think about how other children might feel and how to play safely. This means that children acquire good skills to help them in their future learning. Children learn good hygiene practices as staff encourage them to wash their hands after using the toilet and to use hand gel before eating. The school provides healthy meals and regular outdoor play opportunities so that children benefit from good care for their overall physical development.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The manager works as a teacher alongside other staff as well as being in each of the nursery rooms every day. She carries out regular observations of staff practice and has a good awareness of their strengths and areas for improvement. Staff benefit from regular training opportunities from external trainers and from the manager. For example, after a workshop on using open questions to encourage children's thinking skills, she monitored staff's use of open questions and saw improvement. The manager uses a range of systems to reflect on and evaluate the school. She oversees all staff reviews of children's progress and works with staff to identify any achievement gaps. The manager also looks for any patterns in achievement gaps that could indicate that a group of children is not achieving. As a result, children receive well-timed help and support for any additional needs. The manager's action plans are well-targeted and consistently evaluated for their effectiveness.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY308513
Local authority	Brighton & Hove
Inspection number	813145
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 5
Total number of places	86
Number of children on roll	98
Name of provider	Deepdene Schools Ltd
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	01273 418984

Deepdene School was founded in 1948 and is a preparatory and pre-preparatory school for children up to 11 years in Hove, East Sussex. It first registered to provide full day care in 2005. The school is open from 8am to 6pm. The school also offers a holiday play scheme. The school receives funding for free early education for children aged three and four years. There are 22 members of staff, all of whom are qualified, including two qualified teachers.

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